

1680

THE DIARY OF MRS. NARCISSA WHITMAN, WIFE OF MARCUS WHITMAN

On her journey from Rendezvous to Fort Vancouver
and on her sojourn at Fort Vancouver, 1836

The following diary or journal was copied from one of the originals (written at Fort Vancouver by Mrs. Whitman) by L. A. Kibbe, with the permission of Mrs. Ginera Whitman Lutz, of Bellingham, the owner. Mrs. Lutz is a great grand niece of Marcus Whitman and great granddaughter of Dr. Whitman's brother, Mr. Samuel Whitman.

This typed copy has been taken from a carbon copy done by L. A. Kibbe. Some pages were hard to read, making it difficult to be positive of the exact copy. This copy was made Oct. 1966.

L.D.

The following are statements made by the persons who signed them after comparing the Narcissa Whitman Journal or Diary owned by Mrs. Lutz with the diary owned by Whitman College. The original of these statements is in the possession of Mrs. Lutz and was carefully copied and compared by L.. A. Kibbe, of Bellingham:

Quote:

"This Narcissa Whitman Diary owned by Mrs. Gintera Whitman Lutz was compared with copy owned by Whitman College and we agreed that the identity of the handwriting was without a doubt identical.

(Signed)

MELVIN C. JACOBS
Head of Dept. of History
Curator of the Museum

(Signed) Ruth S. Reynolds? Librarian"

"

June 13, 1946

The undersigned, D. S. Baker and C. R. Portch, officers of the Baker-Boyer National Bank, with many years of experience in examining handwriting, have examined the original diary of Narcissa Whitman, belonging to Whitman College, and the diary owned by Mrs. Gintera Whitman Lutz, of Bellingham, Washington, and in our opinion, believe them to be identical handwriting.

(Signed)

D. S. Baker
D. S. Baker

(Signed)

C. R. Portch
C. R. Portch

The following is an excerpt from a letter to L. A. Kibbe, dated at San Anselmo, California, 8 August 1946, and signed by C. M. Drury:

Quote: "However, knowing Dr. Jacobs and others whose names are listed on the copy of the affidavit you sent, I accept their findings. Evidently Mrs. Whitman made two copies of the original diary (which is in the Whitman Collection." One of these copies is here at San Anselmo and the other is in the possession of Mrs. Lutz."

NARCISSA WHITMAN DIARY, 1836

Narcissa Whitman's Diary of a Missionary Tour west of the Rocky Mountains, performed in 1836, being the first white female ever beyond the mountains, on the Continent. The journey was performed on horseback, a distance of 4,000 miles.

She, in company with her husband, Marcus Whitman, M. D. & t(he) Rev. H. H. Spalding and wife, left the State of New York for the Tour in February, 1836--- Traveled through a part of Pennsylvania, Ohio, & finally arrived at St. Louis in Missouri;--here they joined t(he) fur tour that crosses the mountains every year---& were also joined by Messrs. Gray and Satterlee, missionaries to the West

Matters thus arranged, they all left St. Louis in march for the "Far West" The further particulars of the journey may be learned from t(he) following extract from her journals, taken on the way:

"Vancouver, Oct. 4th 1836

Dear Parents:

I have been able to write something of a journal from Rendezvous here-- did not expect to be able to copy, but as I have been situated for a few weeks past, have taken time (for) it. And as it required several sheets, have put it in this form as being the most compact for sending. It must answer for all in the room of letters, for I have not time to say more.

Your Affectionate Daughter
Narcissa Whitman

West of Rocky Mountains

Dear Mother:---

We commenced our journey to Walla Walla July 18, '36, under the protection of Mr. McLeod and his company. came ten miles in a southwestern direction.

The Flat Head and Nez Perce Indians accompanied us to Fort Hall. While they are with us we shall make but one camp in a day.

July 20th. Came twelve miles in the same direction as on the 18th, over many steep and high mountains---on the 21st our course was southeast in the morning--- Traveled fifteen miles yesterday. The 22nd was a tedious day with us. We started about 9 o'clock A. M. till half past four P. M. Came twenty-one miles. Had two showers in the afternoon, which cooled the air considerably. Before that the heat was oppressive. I thought of mother's bread and butter many times as a hungry child would, but did not find it on the way. I fancy pork and potatoes would relish extremely well. Have been living on fresh meat for two months exclusively, and am getting tired of it. I do not know how I shall endure this part of the journey. Find it much harder to make one camp in a day than we did to make two while with Fitzpatrick, for then we stopped two hours for dinner and rest in the heat of the day, which prepared us for a lengthy ride in the afternoon. Our ride today has not been so lengthy or fatiguing as yesterday. Rode from

nine o'clock A. M. till one P. M., in the same direction-- southwest. Felt a calm and peaceful state of mind all day. Had sweet communion with Him who delights to dwell with the humble and contrite in heart. Especially in the morning I had freedom in prayer for my dear parents---earnestly desired that God would bless them in their declining years & would smooth their passage to the tomb; that in the absence of their earthly comforts He would fill their souls with His more immediate presence---so that they may not have cause to regret the sacrifice they have made for His Namesake, rather accept the sacrifice, and may they be a blessing to the world.

24th. Sabbath Eve. Our route today has been a very mountainous one.-came about eight miles. Painful as it is for us to journey on the Holy Sabbath, I have enjoyed, notwithstanding, a melting^g sense of the presence of that Being who has promised to be with his disciples always---found it good to rest my soul on this today, although I can truly say, "My soul thirsts, yea, even faints for the courts of my God-- the worship of the saints below; the privation has been made good to me by a rich supply from the fountain head-- God, the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. O blessed, blessed privilege that such a sinner as I may have access to the mercy seat through such a Savior as Jesus Christ. It is good to feel that he is all I want and all my righteousness, and if I had teen thousand lives I would give them all to

Him. I long to be more like Him--to possess more of His meek spirit.

25th. Came fifteen miles today--very mountainous. Encamped on Smith's Creek, a small branch of Bear River, which empties into Salt Lake (called on map); (Tampango--that has no outlet) and is said to be a great curiosity, by the Indians who visited it. Large quantities of salt may be obtained (along) the shore, and that of the finest quality. (We do not expect to pass it--said to be a tedious route--no water or buffalo in going from it.

Endured the ride today very well, notwithstanding its difficulties; paths winding along the mountains where in some places the path is so narrow that scarcely could the animals find room to place their feet. One after another we pass on with cautious steps; passed a creek on which were a fine bunch of large gooseberries, nearly ripe. They are not as sweet when ripe as those in the states. Husband has had a tedious time with the wagons today. Got set in the creek this morning while crossing; was obliged to wade in getting it out. After that, in going between two mountains, on the side of one was so steep that it was difficult for horses to pass; the wagon was upset twice; (I) did not wonder at this at all. It was a great wonder that it was not turned a somerset continually. It is not very grateful to my feelings to see him wearing out with excessive fatigue, as I am obliged to. He is not

as fleshy as he was last winter. All the most difficult part of the way he has walked in his laborious attempt to take the wagons over.

26th. Did not move camp today. Mr. McKay has been preparing to send some trappers from this place. Husband has been sick today and so lame with the rheumatism as to be scarcely able to move. It is a great privilege that we can lie still today on his account. Heat oppressive. About noon some Indians set the willows on fire near the camp, which came near burning us out. It was stepped before any injury was done to us save as it caused some to remove their lodges, and we our tents.

27th. Had quite a level route today---came down Bear River and camped on Thompson's Fork, a small branch. Mr. McKay sent off about thirty of his men today as trappers. Several lodges of Indians left us today also, to go in another direction, and we expect more will leave tomorrow. They wish to go a different route from Mr. McKay. We are still in a dangerous country, but our company is large enough for safety. Our cattle endured the journey remarkably well. They are a source of great comfort to us in this land (or time) of scarcity. They supply us with sufficient milk for our coffee and tea, which is indeed a luxury. We are obliged to shoe some of them on account of sore feet. Have seen no buffalo since we left Rendezvous. Had no game of any kind except a few messes of antelope

which John's father gave us.. We have plenty of dried buffalo meat which we purchased from the Indians. I can hardly eat it, it seems so filthy, but it will keep us alive and we ought to be thankful for it. We have had a few messes of fresh fish also which relished well. Have prospects of obtaining plenty in one or two weeks more. Found no berries, neither have I found any of Ma's bread. Girls, do not waste the bread, if you knew how well I should relish even the dryest morsel you would save every piece carefully.) Do not think that I regret coming. No, far from it. I would not go back for the world. I am contented and happy, notwithstanding I get very hungry and weary--have six weeks of journeying before us. Will the Lord give me patience to endure it? Feel sometimes it is a long time to be traveling. (I) long for rest, but must not murmur. We are told that we will find the heat greater as we go on than we have found it previously. Feel to pity the poor Indian women who are continually traveling in this manner during their lives, and know no other comfort. They do all the work, such as getting the wood, preparing the food, packing their lodges, packing and driving their animals--the complete slave of their husbands. I am making some progress in their language--long to be able to converse with them about their Savior. They all appear anxious to converse with us and to be understood by us.

July 28. Very mountainous all the way today; came over another ridge. Rode from eight A. M. to two P. M. We thought yesterday that all the Indians were going to leave us except two or three, but not one has. They fear to on account of the Blackfeet tribe, who are their enemies, and who would destroy them if they could. The Flathead tribe are nearly destroyed by them. One of the axle-trees of the wagon broke today. Was a little rejoiced, for we were in hopes they would leave it and have no more trouble with it. Our rejoicing was in vain, however, for they are making a cart of the hind wheels this afternoon and lashing the front wheels to it, intending to take it through in some shape or other. They are so resolute and untiring in their efforts, they will probably succeed. Had a little fresh fish for breakfast, and some antelope for supper, sent us by Mr. McLeod? and other friends in camp. Thus the Lord provides for us all our way.

July 29th-- Had a tedious ride today. Started on usual time but did not get into time until nearly four o'clock P. M. Mr. Gray was quite sick this morning, and inclined to fall behind camp. Husband and myself thought it not prudent to leave him alone, and rode with him about two hours and a half, when he became very feeble and inclined to lie down. By this time we were so far behind camp that husband thought it not prudent for me to remain with them any longer, and sent me on to overtake them. Soon after,

Mr. Gray gave out entirely and husband left him to come for the cart and return for him. I had overtaken an Indian and told him how sick he was.; who went back, met my husband, and both returned to Mr. Gray. The Indian helped him on his horse, got on behind him, supported him in his arms, and in this way rode into camp. This was a welcome relief. All rejoiced to see them come in, for some of us had been riding seven hours, others eight hours, without any nourishment. It is good to stop awhile under such circumstances, I think.

July 30 Went ten miles off our route with husband and Mr. McLeod and some others, to visit the soda springs. Was much delighted with the views of the wonders of nature we saw there. The first object of curiosity we came to was some white mounds, on the top of which were small springs of soda. These mounds were covered with a crustation made from evaporation of the water, which is continually running in small quantities from these springs. The next object we saw was a little singular. It consisted of an opening like a crater about three feet in diameter by the side of a small stream, on some rocks; a little below in the opening were dead flies and birds in abundance, which had approached so near to the crater as to be choked by gas, which is constantly emits. By putting the face down the breath is stopped instantly and a low, rumbling noise like the roaring of fire, is heard beneath. Having

satisfied our curiosity here, we passed through a grove of juniper and pitch pine trees, and a small distance from there, came to a large spring of soda water, clear as crystal, effervescing continually. It appeared of great depth. At a considerable distance below the surface there were two white substance, in appearance like lumps of soda in a concrete(?) state. We took with us some soda and went to try the effect of a mixture, and found that it effervesces with both, but it was greater with the acid than with the soda. Drank frequently of the water--found it very pleasant. There were five or six other springs near Bear River which we did not visit in consequence of losing sight of our company and being obliged to hasten back. The ground in every direction was covered with lava. Gathered several fine specimens. We desired more time to visit other curiosities there, but were unable to, as camp was moving from us continually. Rode in all thirty miles and found them encamped under a bluff covered with black basalt.

31st. Our ride was not lengthy today, which I felt to be a great favor. I am nearly sick in consequence of excessive fatigue yesterday. Heat oppressive in the middle of the day.

August 1st. Monthly concert day. How sweet and sacred the-day influence of the day upon the weary and solitary missionary.

August 2nd. Had an unusually long ride today. Heat excessive. Truly I thought the heavens over us were brass and the earth iron under our feet. Our route for two or three days has been quite level. But the same scenery prevails ----rocks and sandy plains, covered with a species of wormwood, called sage, of a pale green color, offensive both to the sight and smell. We meet with frequent fertile spots, however, often enough to furnish us and our animals with a comfortable inn(?) for the night. Had a feast of service berries today--the first ripe ones we have seen. They are a small, black berry, very sweet--something like the pear, in its flavor---stopped and gathered some, which refreshed us very much and answered the place of a dinner very well

August 3d. Came to Fort Hall this morning, distance eight miles. A cool breeze made the ride very pleasant--was much cheered with a view of the fort at a considerable distance. Anything that looks like a home makes us glad. Called and were hospitably received by Capt. King, who keeps the fort. Our dinner consisted of dry buffalo meat, turnips, and fried bread, which was a luxury. Mountain bread is simply coarse flour _____ and water mixed and and roasted or fried in buffalo grease. To one who has had nothing but meat for a long time this relishes well.

I enjoyed the cool retreat of an upper room while writing. The buildings of the fort are made of hewn logs--

roofs covered with mud bricks; chimney and fire place of the same. No windows except a square hole in the roof, and in the bastion a few port holes large enough for guns only. The buildings are all enclosed in a strong log wall. This affords them a place of safety when attacked by the wild Indians, as they frequently are, the fort being in the Blackfeet country.

After dinner visited the garden and corn field. The turnips in the garden appear thrifty. The peas look well, but most of them have been gathered by the mice. Saw a few onions that were going to seed; this looked quite natural. He told us that his corn did exceedingly well till the 8th of June. The frost of one night prostrated it. It has since come up again, but does not look as well as before. This is their first attempt at cultivation. The buildings at Fort Williams (?) are made in the same way, but larger and more finished than here. Here we have stools to sit on; there we had very comfortable chairs bottomed with buffalo skins. Thus you see we have houses of entertainment almost or quite as often as Christian in Pilgrim's Progress did. We expect one more before we get to Walla Walla--that is Snake Fort, owned by Mr. McKay, who is traveling with us. We expect to be there in about fifteen days. From this on our company will be small. The Indians all leave us today except one or two who go to assist in driving the cattle. Rentuck, who went with Mr.

Parker last year, and Chief Rotten Belly. The whole tribe are very anxious to have us go with them and use every argument they can invent to have us do so.---and not only arguments but strtagems. We all think it not best;---we are very much fatigued and wish to get through as soon as possible. To go with them would take two months or more ---when now we expect to get to W. W. in 25 days, or by the first of September. When we get there rest will be sweet to us---so it will be with the Christian when he gets to heaven. Ah! Will father and mother get there before I do? If so then they will be ready to greet us upon its threshold. Here we have raised our Ebenezer, saying: "Hitherto the Lord has helped us. Now we leave it and paus on. Farewell, dear parents, for the present. Our animals are nearly ready. It is about two P. M.---- expect to go but a short distance and camp.

Aug. 5th. Came ten miles. Last eve did not arrive here till after dark. Mr. McLeod and his company started earlier than we did, intending to come out a little way from the fort, just to make a commencement. We could not start when they did, and the man who piloted us lead us wrong, much out of the way. Those who we expected would drive our cattle disappointed us. Husband and myself fell in behind to assist John Ait(?) who was alone driving them. This made us later into camp than the rest of the company. We came through several swamps, and all the way were so annoyed with mosquitoes that we could scarcely see, especially

while passing the Port Neuf[?], which we did just before we came into camp. This is the widest river I have forded on horseback. It seemed as if the cows would run mad for the mosquitoes, we could scarcely get them along. Mr. McLeod met us and invited us to tea, which was a great favor. Thus blessings gather thick around us. Fort Hall is situated on ~~the~~ a flu[?] of the Lewis River. We have been in the mountains so long (we) find the scenery of the range very grateful to the eye, with a large river on my right ~~hand~~, and on my left skirted with timber. We have passed many places where the soil is good and would be fertile if there were frequent rains.

We passed the American Falls (?) in Snake River just after dinner. roar of the water is heard at a considerable distance. Our route has not been very tedious today, for we stopped during the greatest heat for rest and dinner. Now that the Indians are not with us we shall make two camps. I feel this to be a great mercy to us weak females, for it was more than we could well endure to travel during the heat of the day without any refreshment.

Aug. 6. Route very bad and difficult today (especially in the forenoon. we crossed a small river full of falls, a short distance above where it empties into Snake River. The only pass where we could cross was on the edge of rocks just above one of the falls. While the pack animals were crossing, there was such a rush as to crowd two of our horses

over the falls, both of them packed with dry meat. It was with great difficulty they were gotten out. One of them was in an hour, much to his injury. No game was taken today. We have a little rice to eat with our dry meat.

7th. Came fifteen miles today without water over dry, parched earth covered with its native sage. We have encamped on a fine place---plenty of good grass for our weary animals. Thus are blessings so singled that it seems as if there were nothing else but mercy and blessings all the way. Was there ever a journey like this performed where the sustaining hand of God has been so manifested at every moment. Surely the children of Israel could not have been more sensible of the pillar of cloud by day and of fire by night than we have been of that hand that has thus led us safely on. God has heard prayers in our behalf and even now while I am writing, on this holy day is the sweet incense of prayer ascending before the throne of heavenly grace. Nor are we forgotten in the prayer of our beloved Charles at home. We are too sensible of its blessed effects to believe otherwise. And how comforting to the heart of the missionary is this thought. We love to think and talk of home with such feelings as these. It warms our hearts, strengthens and encourages us in the work of our beloved Master, and makes our journeys easy.

8th--Monday evening. We have an excellent camp ground tonight; plenty of excellent feed for our horses and cattle. Quite a change in the temperature of the atmosphere since yesterday noon. It was so cool last night and we have had such a wind today that we and our animals have traveled more comfortably for it. We think it remarkable that our cattle should have endured the journey as well as they do. We have two sucking calves that appear to be in very good(condition) spirits. They suffer from sore feet; otherwise they come-come on very well. Have come eighteen miles today and have taken it so deliberately that it has been easy for us. The hunters came in last night well loaded. They have been in the mountains two days after game; killed three elk and two antelope. This is the first elk we have had, and is the last opportunity we expect to have of taking any more game. We are told many have traveled the whole distance from Rendezvous to Walla Walla without any fresh (meat), living entirely upon the dry. We think ours will last us until we reach the salmon fisheries at Snake Falls. Then we are will provided for all the way, contrary to our expectations. Mr. McLeod has excellent hunters. This is the reason why we have lived so well. There is but little game and that is found at a great distance from the road.

August 11. Tuesday and Wednesday have been very tedious days, both for man and beast.---lengthy marches without water. Not so tedious today for length, but the

route has been rocky and sandy. Had a present tonight of a fresh salmon, also a plate of fried cakes from Mr. McLeod. (Girls, if you wish to know how they taste you can have the pleasure by taking a little flour and water and make some dough; roll it thin, cut it into square blocks, then take some beef fat and fry them. You need not ~~take~~ either salt or Pearl[?]ash(?) into your dough:) Believe me I relish these as well as I ever did any at home.

12th (Friday). Raisedcamp this morning at sunrise; came two hours' ride to the salmon fisheries. Found a few lodges of "diggers" of the Snake tribe, (so-called because they live on roots during the winter) who have just commenced fishing; obtained some and boiled them for our breakfast; find it good eating. Had we been a few days earlier we should not have been able to obtain any fish, for they have just come up. They never come higher than these falls, but come here every season.

Friday eve. Dear H. Harriet) The little trunk you gave me has come with us so far, and now I must leave it here alone. Poor little trunk! I am sorry to leave thee. Thou must abide here alone and no more by thy presence remind me of my dear Harriet. Twenty miles below the falls, on the Snake River--this shall be thy place of rest. Farewell, little trunk. I thank thee for thy faithful service and that I have been cheered by thy presence for so long. Thus we scatter as we go along. The hills are so

steep and rocky that husband thought it best to lighten the wagon as much as possible, and take nothing but the wheels leaving the box with my trunk. I regret leaving anything that came from home, especially that trunk) but it is best. It would have been better for us not to have attempted to bring any luggage whatever, only what was necessary to use on the way. It costs so much in labor besides the expense of animals. If I were to make the journey again I would make quite different preparations. To pack and unpack so many times and cross so many streams where the packs frequently get wet, requires no small amount of labor, besides the injury done to the articles. Our books---what few we have, have been wet several times. The custom of the country is to possess nothing, and then you will lose nothing while traveling.

13th (Saturday). Dear H. Mr. McKay has asked the privilege of taking the little trunk along, so that my soliloquy about it last night was for naught. However, it will do me no good--it may him. We have come at least fifteen miles and have had the worst route in all the journey. By being misled by some of the company who started out before their leaders, it was two o'clock before we came into camp. They were preparing to cross Snake River. The packs are placed on the tallest horses and in this way cross without wetting. Two of the tallest horses were selected to carry Mrs. S. and myself over.

The last branch[?] we rode as much as a half mile in crossing, and against the current, too, which made it hard for the horses, the water being up to their sides. Husband had considerable difficulty in crossing with the cart. Both the cart and the mules were capsized in the water, and the mules entangled in the harness. They would have drowned had it not been for a desperate struggle to get them ashore. Thus after putting two of the strongest horses before the cart and two men swimming behind to steady it, they succeeded in getting it over. I once thought that crossing the streams would be the most dreadful part of the journey. I can now cross the most difficult stream without fear. There is one manner of crossing which Husband has tried but I have not, neither do I wish to. It is this: Take an elk skin and stretch it over you, spreading yourself out as much as possible. Then let the Indian women put you on the water, and with a cord in the mouth will drag you over.

15th. Yesterday Mr. McLeod, with most of his men, left us, wishing to hasten his arrival at Snake Fort, leaving us a pilot and his weakest animals to come on at our leisure. This is a relief to us, for it is difficult to bring our cattle up to the speed they wished to travel. We passed the Hot Springs just before noon, which are quite a curiosity. (We) boiled a bit of dried salmon in one of them in five minutes.

16th. This evening found plenty of berries, called hawthorn. They are as large as a cherry and taste like a mealy, sweet apple. Our route on this side of the river is less hilly (and difficult) than on the south side and said to be two miles (days) shorter.

19th. Arrived at Snake River about noon. It is situated on Big Wood River, so called because the timber is larger than any this side of the mountains, chiefly cottonwood, and is small compared with the timber in the states. Snake Fort is owned (and was built) by Mr. McKay, one of the company whom we expect to leave here. We, with Mr. McLeod, gave us a hearty welcome. (We) dined with them. Mr. McLeod was ready to start on the sorrow, but said he would stay a day longer to give us the opportunity of doing some necessary work, for which we were very thankful.

20th. Sat(urday). Last night I put my clothes in water and this morning finished washing before breakfast. I find it not very agreeable to do such work in the middle of the day, when I have no shelter to protect me from the sun's scorching rays. This is the third time I have washed since I left home. Mr. McLeod called this evening to see if we were ready to leave. (He) observed that we had been so engaged in labor as to have no time to rest, and proposed for our sakes (the ladies) to remain over the Sabbath. This I can assure you was a favor we

can never be too thankful for; our souls needed the rest of the Sab(bath) as well as our bodies.

21(st). Sab(bath). Rich with heavenly blessings has has this day been to my soul. Mr. S. was invited to preach at the fort at 11 o'clock. The theme was the character of the blessed Savior, and how pleasing to dwell upon its bisaties.---his love to us as exhibited to us in His life and his actions. All listened with good attention to the subject.

22nd and 25th. Left the fort for ^W (Walla ^W Walla). Came a short distance to the crossing on Snake River; crossed and encamped for the night. This being a fishing ^{of} post for the Indians we easily found a canoe made of rushes and willows on which we placed ourselves (Sister S. and myself) and our saddles, when two Indians on horseback, with each a rope attached to the canoe, towed us over. We are favorites of the company. No one else was privileged with a ride on it. I wish I could give you a correct idea of this little bark. It is simply bunches of rushes tied together and attached to a frame made of willows. It was just large enough to hold us and our saddles. Our baggage was transported on the tops of the tallest horses.

As for the wagon, it is left at the fort. Five of our cattle we left also to be exchanged for others at Walla Walla. Perhaps you will wonder why we left the wagon, having taken it so near through. Our animals were

failing, and the route in crossing the Blue Mountains is said to be impassable for it. We have the prospect of having one in exchange for it at Vancouver. If we do not, we shall send for it when convenient and pack it over. We regret now to lose it when we have been to so much labor in getting it thus far. It is a needful article in this country.

Now for Edward's amusement and that he may know how to do when he comes over the Rocky Mountains. I will tell you how we got the cattle over the river. Our two boys, Richard and John, have had the chief management of them all the way and are commendable for the patience they have manifested. They have one or two to help them usually, but none so steady drivers as themselves. When a stream is to be forded, where it is necessary for them to swim, Richard comes to my husband and asks if he may go over with his horses and clothes and come back after the ^{cows.} cattle. Having obtained consent, he rides over accompanied by his fellow drivers.

All strip themselves to the shirt, then return with their horses if the stream is wide and difficult. If not, they leave their horses, tie their shirts over their heads, swim back, collect the cows, drive them through, all swimming. If the stream is very wide and deep they return with their horses, they drive them over, swimming on their horses after them. They love to swim as they love to eat.

In the commencement of the journey we were not able to ford all the rivers. In this case all the horses and mules were to be driven across likewise. Usually the best Indian swimmer was selected and mounted the horse that was good for leading, to go before the animals as a guide, while many others swam after them to drive them over. Then once under way, such a snorting and hallooing you never heard. At the same time you can see nothing save so many heads floating upon the water. Soon they gain the opposite shore, triumphantly ascend its banks, shake themselves, and retire to their accustomed employment.

26th (Friday). On account of our worn out cattle and horses, it was thought best for some of us to separate from Mr. McLeod's party and travel more deliberately. Two mules and a horse have most entirely given out, having been very much hurt in packing. It is also necessary that some of our party go to Vancouver for supplies and to see Mr. Parker before he leaves. It was thought best for my husband and Mr. Gray to go. As Mr. McLeod intended to make but a day's stop at W(alla) W(alla), as came on with him, leaving Mr. and Mrs. Spalding, the hired men and the Nez Perce chief, Rottenbelly, to pilot them.

We parted from them about three o'clock P. M. and came on as far as the Lone Tree. The place called Lone Tree is a beautiful valley in the region of Powder River, in the center of which is a solitary tree, by the side of

which travelers usually stop to refresh themselves. We left our tent for Mrs. S. expecting to be out only a few nights while she might be many. Mr. McLeod kindly offered his for my use, and when I arrived in camp found it pitched in readiness for me. This was a great favor, for the wind blew quite hard, with the prospect of a cool night. Took tea with Mr. McLeod.

27. Came in sight of the hill that leads into Grand Round (Ronde) and should have come quite to it had it not been for circumstances that occurred during the day. This morning Mr. McLeod remained behind in pursuit of game and did not come into camp until we had made a long noon(ing). Began to feel concerned, and it was proposed to send back in pursuit of him, when about 3 o'clock he arrived (came into camp,) loaded with wild ducks, having taken twenty-two. Now, Mother, he did just as he always did just as he always did during the whole journey.--sent me nine of them. Here also Richard caught a fresh salmon, which made another good meal. If we had been out of provisions we might have made a dinner on fresh water clams, for the river was full of them where we nooned. We left at four and rode till seven---felt exceeding languid and were out with fatigue in the morning, but took a long sleep at noon--while waiting--which refreshed me much.

Girls, how do you think we manage to rest ourselves every noon, having no home to shelter us for the scorching

heat of the noonday sun, or sofa on which to realize?
Perhaps you think we always encamp in the thick shade of
some wood. Such a sight I have not seen, lo. there many
weeks. If we can find a few small willows or a single
low tree, we think ourselves amply provided for. Often
our camping places are in some open plain--frequently a
sand plain,--but ~~even~~ here is comfort and rest. My
husband is always ready to provide a comfortable shade
with some of our saddle blankets spread upon some willows
or sticks placed ~~on~~ the ground. which constitutes our
sofas. Here we recline and rest until dinner. How would
(torn sheet)
you like this? Would you not think a seat by mother
in some cool room preferable? Sometimes my wicked heart
has been disposed to murmur, thinking I should have no
rest from the heat when I stopped, but I always have been
reproved for it by the rest and comfort I received under
the circumstances. I never have wished to go back. Such
a thought finds not a place in my heart. The Lord is
better to us than our fears. I always find it so.

28th. This morning lingered with husband on the top
of the tall hill that overlooks Grand Ronde, to pick
berries till we were some distance behind camp. Have
no distressing apprehension now, the moment we are out of
sight of camp, for we have entirely passed the dangerous
country. (I) always enjoy riding alone with him, especially
when we talk about home friends. It is then tedious hours

are sweetly decoyed away. We descend a very steep hill in coming into Grand Round (Ronde), at the foot of which is a beautiful stream coursing through it, skirted with large timber. The scenery which we pass through in some places is delightful and the soil is rich. We nooned upon Grand Round (Ronde) River. The camas grows here in great abundance. It is the principal resort of the Cayuses to obtain it--of which they are very fond. It resembles an onion in shape and color---when cooked it is very sweet--some like a fig. Their manner of baking them is very curious: They dig a hole in the ground, throw in a quantity of stones, heat them red hot, cover them with green grass, upon which they put the camas, and cover the whole with earth. When taken out it is black. This is the chief food of many tribes during the winter. After dinner we left the plain and ascended the Blue country (Blue Mts.), where a new and pleasing scene presented itself to our view---mountains covered with timber, through which (we) rode all the afternoon--a very agreeable change. The scenery reminds me of (the hills) of my native county, Steuben.

29. Had a continuation of the same scenery as yesterday afternoon. Here I frequently met with old acquaintances in trees and flowers, and was not a little delighted. Indeed I do not know as I was ever so much affected with any scenery in my life. The singing of the

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Beyond the valley we could see two distinct mountains-- Mt. Hood and Mt. St. Helens. Their lovely peaks were of a conical (form) and separated from each other by a considerable distance. Behind the former the sun was hiding part of his rays, which gave us a more distinct view of this gigantic cone. The beauty of this extensive valley contrasted well with the rolling mountains behind us, and at this hour of twilight was enchanting and quite diverted my mind from the fatigue under which I was laboring. We had yet to descend a hill as long, but not so steep or stony as the other. By this time our horses were in haste to encamp as well as ourselves, and mine made such lengthy strides in descending that it shook my sides surprisingly. It was dark when we got into camp, but the tent was ready and tea also, for Mr. McLeod invited us to sup with him. We are now on the west side of the Blue Mountains---crossed them in a day and a half.

Dearest Mother: Let me tell you how I am sustained of the Lord in all this journey. Yesterday and for two or three days past I have felt weak and restless and scarcely able to sit upon my horse--yesterday in particular. But see how I have been diverted (with the scenery) and carried out of myself in conversation (about home and friends?). Mother will recollect what my feelings were & had been for a year previous to my leaving home---the last revival I enjoyed--my visit to Onondaga & the scenes

there.---This I call my impressions of home, & it is of such a character & when I converse about home these same feelings are revived & I forget I am weary & want rest. This morning my feelings were a little peculiar--felt remarkably well & strong--so much so as to mention it, but could not see any reason why I' should feel any more resting than on the morning previous---when I began to see what a day's ride was before me, then I understood it. If I had had no better health than yesterday I should have fainted under it. Then t(he) promise appeared in full view, "As thy day is so shall thy strength be?" --- & my soul rejoiced in G(od) & testified to t(he) truth of another evidently manifested--"Lo, I am with you always."

30th inst. In consequence of the lengthy camp yesterday & the failure of animals, two of the Co.'s men left 4 of theirs behind, with packs also. This occasioned some anxiety last t(he) wolves sh(ould) destroy their beaver. Today they send back for them, & we remain here until their return--or make but a short move to find more grass. In following the () course of the stream by which we camped last night---we found plenty of cherries--had time to stop & gather as we wished--indeed we rambled until noon--before we went into camp. The cherries are very fine--equal to any in the states. When we arrived Mr. Gray had t(he) dinner ready for us & waiting. Our

employment this afternoon is various---some are washing their clothes, some cutting their hair--some are shaving--preparatory to entering Walla W.---& some are sleeping;--for my part I divert myself t(he) best way I can--doing (& trying to write) now a little mending for husband while he & Mr. Gray are stretching upon the ground enjoying the refreshment of a sound sleep. The man who went for the animals returned late. We all regretted this delay, as Mr. McLeod intended to have seen Walla W. today & return again with a muskmelon for Mrs. Whitman (so he said). He will go in tomorrow. It is t(he) custom of t(he) country to send heralds ahead & announce t(he) arrival of a party & prepare for their reception.

31st. Came to Walla W. River within 8 miles of the fort;-- both Husband & myself are very much exhausted with t(he) fatigue of this day's lengthy ride--sandy most of the way & no water for many miles. Since we left Mr. S. Husband rode an Indian horse he never mounted before--found him hard on every gait--except the gallop--& slow in all his movements, especially on t(he) walk. He co(uld) not pace as mine did--& so make up t(he) deficiency in that easy way, so for t(he) last six days--When t(he) ground wd (would) admit, we gallop most of t(he) way.

Sept. 1, 1836---You can better imagine our feelings this morning 2[?] (than) I can describe them. I c(ould) not realize 2[?] (that) the end of the long journey was so

near.---We arose as soon as it was light--took a cup of coffee--ate of t(he) duck we had given us last night--Then dressed for Walla W.---we started while it was yet early, for all were in haste to reach the desired haven. If you c(oul)d have seen us now you w(oul)d have been surprised--for both man and beast seemed propelled by t(he) same force. The whole company galloped almost all the way to t(he) fort. The fatigues of the long journey seemed to be forgotten in t(he) excitement of being so near its close;--soon t(he) fort appeared in sight--& when it was announced 2? (that) we were near-- Mr. McLeod, Mr. Pambrun, t(he) gentleman of t(he) house--& Mr. Townsend, sallied forth to meet us. After the usual introduction & salutations we entered the fort & were seated in well-cushioned arm-chairs^{ed?}. They were just eating breakfast as we rode up. Soon we were seated at the table & were treated to fresh salmon, potatoes, tea, bread & butter. What a variety, thought I.--You cannot imagine what an appetite a ride on these mountains gives a person. I wish some of t(he) feeble ones of t(he) states c(oul)d have a ride over t(he) mountains. They w(oul)d say, like me, that food even? of t(he) plainest kind never relished so well before.

After breakfast we were shown t(he) novelties of t(he) place---They are so (good) to us.---While at Breakfast, however, a young cock placed himself on t(he) sill of t(he) door & crowed. Now whether it was the sight of the

first white women--or out of compliment to t(he) company, I know not. This much for him. I was pleased with his appearance. You may think me simple for speaking of so trifling a circumstance as this.--No one knows the feelings occasioned by seeing objects once familiar after a long absence or privation.--Especially is it heightened by not expecting to see them. The dooryard was filled with hens, chickens, turkeys, pigeons,--& in another place we saw cows, hogs, & goats in abundance---& I think t(he) largest & fattest cattle & swine I ever saw. We were soon shown a room which Mr. Pambrun said he had prepared for us--by making two bedsteads or bunks--on hearing of our approach. It was t(he) west bastion of t(he) fort, full of port holes in the sides,--but no windows--filled with firearms;--a large cannon always loaded stood behind t(he) door by one of t(he) holes;--Those things did not move me.--I am so well pleased with t(he) possession of a room to shelter me from t(he) scorching sun, I scarcely noticed their having placed our things. We were soon invited to a feast of melons- the finest I think, I ever tasted or saw. The muskmelons were the largest--one measuring 18 inches in length--15 around the small end--19 around the large. Be assured none of us left t(he) table until we had well filled our plates with chips

At 4 o'clock we were called to dine. Our dinner consisted of pork, potatoes, beets, cabbage, tea, bread

& butter--my favorite dinner, & much like t(he) last dinner I ate with Mother Loomis.-- I am thus particular in my description of eating t(hat) you may be assured t(hat) we find something to eat beyond the Rocky Mountains as well as at home. We find plenty of salt here--but many prefer to do almost--& some entirely without it, on their meat & other eatables.

Sept. 2. Have busied myself today in unpacking my trunk & arranging my things for a visit to Vancouver-- Mother will wonder at this & think me a strange child-- for wishing to add 300 miles to this journey, not from necessity but because Husband is going--& I can go as well as to stay here alone. If we were obliged to go on horseback I think I sh(ould) not like or wish to undertake it--but we are going in a boat & it will not take us more time t(han) six days to get them--a very agreeable change--I think I shall enjoy it better t(han) to stay here alone. I feel remarkably well & rested--do not wish to lounge at all, & so it is with us all. I can scarcely believe it possible of myself--but still it is true. I feel as vigorous & as well able to engage in domestic employment as ever I ever did in my life-- covered a stock[?] yesterday for husband--for my first work here. I have not yet introduced you to t(he) lady of t(he) house. She is a native from a tribe east of t(he) mountains. She appears well but does not speak

English--only her native language & French. The cooking & housework is done by men chiefly.-- Mr. Pambrun is from Canada--is very agreeable and much t(he) gentleman in ^{his} appearance.

Sept. 3. Mr. McLeod & Mr. Townsend have left today for Vancouver. Since our arrival different arrangements have been made about our going. Mr. Pambrun is going in a boat by himself & offers us a passage with him. Mr. McLeod is so loaded as not to be able to give us a comfortable passage. We expect to leave next week. About noon Mr. & Mrs. Spalding arrived with their company--having made better progress than we anticipated. The animals all came in except our horse, which was injured in packing--- entirely given out and was left. Here we all are in W. W.--- () in life & good health. Through the mercy of a kind Providence. What cause for gratitude & praise to God. Surely my heart is ready to leap for joy--at t(he) thought of being so near & long desired work of teaching t(he) benighted ones t(he) knowledge of our blessed Savior & having completed this hazardous journey under such favorable circumstances. Mr. Pambrun said to us t(he) day we arrived, there never had a company come into Fort so well fed during t(he) last part of our journey. All our friends of t(he) East Company who know anything about t(he) country dreaded this part of t(he) journey for us very much--but t(he) Lord has been with & provided for us all t(he) way--& blessed be his holy name. Another cause

of gratitude is this--Of our animals, during this difficult, dangerous & lengthy route--while parties previous to this have had every animal taken from them & left on foot in a dangerous land & exposed to death---Two horses have been fatigued & given out, & two have been stolen or have strayed? Most that we have now have come all t(he) way from t(he) settlements, & appear well. Two calves only have been lost except those we left at Snake Fort.

Sept. 4. This has been a day of mutual thanksgiving with us---all assembled in the fort at 12 o'clock for worship--our feelings are better imagined than described---this first Sab(bath) in Sept.--a Sab(bath) of rest; first after completing our long journey; first among t(he) poor Indians; all of us here before God.

It is not enough for us alone to be thankful; will not our beloved friends at home, the disciples of Jesus, unite with us in gratitude & praise to God for His great mercy. It is in answer to your prayers that we are here & are permitted to see this day under such circumstances. I feel to dedicate myself & unreservedly to His service among t(he) heathen, & may the Lord's hand be as evidently manifest in blessing our labors among them as it has been in bringing us here--& that in answer to your prayers--beloved Christian friends.----

5th. Mr. & Mrs. Spalding have concluded to go with us to Vancouver, as nothing can be done by either party

about location until t(he) Indians return from their summer hunt--expect to leave tomorrow. Have had exceeding high winds for two days & nights past, to which this place is subject. Our room shakes & the wind makes such a noise that we can scarcely hear each other converse.

7th. We set sail from W. W. yesterday at 2 P. M. Our boat is an open one manned with six oars & t(he) steersman. I enjoy it very much. It is a very pleasant change in our manner of traveling.--The Columbia is a beautiful river. Its waters are as clear as crystal & smooth as a sea of glass--exceeding in beauty the Ohio of the East--but t(he) scenery is different-- No timber to be seen, high perpendicular banks of rock in some places--rugged bluffs & plains of sand is all that greets the eye as we pass down the waters of this majestic river. We sailed until near sunset, landed, pitched our tents--supped on tea, bread & butter, potatoes, a boiled ham;---committed ourselves to t(he) care of a kind Providence, & retired to rest.

8th. Came last night quite to t(he) Chutes--a fall in the river not navigable. This morning rose before sunrise; launched & sailed until 9 o'clock & landed for breakfast. Mr. Pambrun's cook is preparing it while Husband & I are seated by a little shrub on t(he) sand writing. We are this moment called. Farewell. We made

t(he) portage past t(he) falls this morning before breakfast;--all were obliged to land--unload--carry our luggage & even t(he) boats for nearly half a mile. I have frequently seen pictures in my childhood--representing the Indians carrying their canoes--but now to see & partake in t(he) reality..-----

We found plenty of Indians here to assist in making t(he) portage. After loading several, with our baggage & sending them on, t(he) boat was capsized & placed upon t(he) heads of about twenty Indians-- who marched off with it with perfect ease--each keeping step with t(he) others.-- Below t(he) main fall of water are rocks--deep, narrow channels & frightful precipices.--All this distance we walked deliberately, viewing t(he) scenes with astonishment, for this beautiful river seems once to (have) been cut up with these huge masses of rock. Indeed it is difficult to see where t(he) main body of water passes.--In high water we are told that these rocks are all covered, t(he) water rises to such an astonishing height.--- After paying t(he) Indians for their assistance, which was a twist of tobacco each, t(he) length of t(he) finger--we reloaded, went on board, sailed about two miles, & then stopped for breakfast.-- This was done to get away from a throng of Indians---many followed us, however, to assist in making another bad portage about three miles below this.

Sept. 9. We came to The Dalles yesterday about noon--just before---here our way was stopped by two rocks of immense size & height--all t(he) water of t(he) river passing between them in a very narrow channel with great force & rapidity. Here we were obliged to land & make as[?] portage as[?] before for about 2½ miles. The Dalles is t(he) great resort of t(he) Indians of many tribes for fish. We did not see many, however, as they had just left. If they could read & we had tracts & Bibles t(he) Gospel might be given to them & sent to multitudes...May God have mercy on them. ^x Now, Mother, if I was by my fireside I w(oul)d relate a scene that w(pul)d amuse you & at t(he) same time call forth your sympathies. It may not appear ^{or} well on paper as worth mentioning, but for my own gratification at least I choose to mention it. After we landed, curiosity w(oul)d lead us to t(he) top of that rock to see t(he) course of t(he) river through that narrow channel--but as I expected to walk this portage, Husband thought it w(oul)d be too fatiguing for both. I went with him to its base to wait there till his return. Took with me a handful of hazle nuts. Thought I could divert myself by cracking & eating these (or them); had just seated myself in t(he) shade of the rock & ready to commence work--when I felt something uncommon on my neck; put my hand under my cape & took from thence two fleas---Immediately I cast my eyes on my dress before me & to my

Below
Celilo
Just Before
Reaching the
Dalles

astonishment found my dress was black with them--making all possible speed to lay siege to my neck & ears. This sight made me almost frantic. What to do I knew not; husband was away, Sister S. had gone past hearing. To stand still I could not.--I climbed up t^(he) in pursuit of my husband, who soon saw & came to me.--I could not tell him but showed him my trouble. On opening the gathers in my dress around my waist, every plait was lined with them.---Thus they already laid themselves in ambush against a fresh attack. We brushed & shook & brushed for an hour, not stopping to kill for that w(oul)d have been an endless job--By this time they were reduced considerably & I prepared to go to the boat.--- I was relieved from walking by the appearance of a horse to ride, by a young chief. This was a great kindness, for the way was through sand mostly. I would have been a fatiguing walk--found my confinement in t^(he) boat distressing on account of my miserable companions that came with me from the rocks. They w(oul)d not let me rest a moment in any one position. I was not t^(he) only sufferer---every person in t^(he) boat was also troubled--both crew & passengers. As soon as I was able to make a change in my apparel I found relief----We made fine progress this morning until 9 o'clock when we were met with a head wind, & obliged to make shore. The wind that works against us will assist others that are going up t^(he) stream. We

met Mr. Cowee[?] last night with the Montreal Express.

This express goes to & returns from Montreal to Vancouver twice in each year. Eve. Have lain still all day on account of the winds. This is a hindrance--intended to have been at Vancouver tomorrow eve. A party of Indians came to our camp this evening. Every head was flattened. These are the first I have been near as to be able to examine them. Their eyes have a dull [&] heavy expression.

10th. High winds & not able to move today.

11th. Came to t(he) Cascades to breakfast; another important fall in t(he) river where we are obliged to make a portage of a mile. The boat was towed along by t(he) rocks over t(he) falls with a rope.---This is another great place for salmon fish. A boat load was just ready for Vancouver (as we) arrived. I saw an infant here whose head was in t(he) pressing machine. This was a pitiful sight. Its mother took great satisfaction in unbinding and showing its naked head to us. The child lay on a board between which & its head was a squirrel skin; on its forehead lay a small, square cushion, over which was a bandage drawn tight around, pressing its head against a board. In this position it is kept three or four months or longer until t(he) head becomes a fashionable shape--almost as bad off as some people in t(he) states value[?] to have [?] a fashionable shape, bandage their bodies instead of their heads).

There is a variety of shapes among them--some are sharper than others. I saw one child about a year old whose head has been recently released from its pressure, as I supposed from its looks---all t(he) back part of it was of a purple color as if it had been badly bruised. We are told this custom is wearing away very fast. There are only a few tribes near t(he) river that practice it.

12th. Breakfasted in a sawmill 5 miles from Vancouver & made preparations for entering town.---You may be surprised to hear of a sawmill here when I told you there was no timber on t(he) Columbia. Since we passed t(he) Cascades t(he) scene is changed & we are told there is timber all t(he) way to t(he) Coast. Above t(he) Cascades we saw none.

Eve. We are now in Vancouver, t(he) New York of t(he) Pacific Ocean. Our first sight as we approached t(he) port was two ships lying in t(he) harbour-- one of which t(he) Mereiades, Capt. Royal, had just arrived from London. The Columbia, Capt. Darby came last May & has since been to t(he) Sandwich Island & returned. On landing, we first met Mr. Townsend, whom we saw at W. W.---but (he) did not then say who he was. He is from Philadelphia --has been in t(he) mountains two years. He is sent here by a society to collect different species of bipeds & quadrupeds--peculiar to this country. We

brought a parcel of letters to him--t(he) first he had received since he left home. He led us into t(he) fort--
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but before we reached the house of t(he) Chief Factor--
Dr. McLoughlin--were met by several gentlemen who came to give us a welcome---Mr. Douglas, Dr. Tolmie, & Doct(or) McLoughlin, of t(he) Hudson's Bay Company, who invited us in & seated us on t(he) sofa. Soon after we were introduced to Mrs. McLoughlin & Mrs. Douglas, both natives of t(he) country (half-breeds). After chatting a little we were invited to a walk in t(he) garden.---What a delightful place this.. What a contrast this to t(he) barren, sandy plains through which we had so recently passed. Here we find fruits of every description: Apples, peaches, plums, grapes, pears & figs in abundance. Cucumbers, beets, melons, beans, peas--cabbages, tomatoes, & every kind of vegetables, too numerous to mention. Every part is very tastefully arranged--fine walks, on each side lined with strawberry vines. Here I must mention the origin of these apples and grapes. A gentleman in London, at a party three years ago put t(he) seeds of t(he) apples & grapes he ate, in his vest pocket, & soon after took a voyage to this country & left them here. Now they are greatly multiplied.

After promenading as much as we pleased & returning we were met by Mrs. Lapendel, a lady from England who arrived in the ship Columbia, & Miss Haria, a daughter of

Doct. McLoughlin-- quite an interesting young lady.
After dinner were introduced to Re. Mr. Beaver & Lady, clergyman of the Church of England, who arrived here last week in t(he) ship Nereides. I mentioned in a former letter that they were expected by way of Montreal, but they have come by sea around Cape Horn. This is more than we expected when we left home--that we should be privileged with t(he) society & acquaintance of two English ladies.--- Indeed, we seem to be nearly allied to old England itself, --for most of t(he) gentlemen we see are from there & Scotland. We have not found Mr. Parker here--to our great disappointment---He went to Oahu in t(he) ship Columbia a few weeks before we arrived. We have mourned about it considerably, for we thought it would be so acceptable to our dear parents & friends at home to hear him say that he had seen us alive here after completing this long and unheard-of journey, & besides I wished to send many things home which now I cannot.---More than all this, his council & advice would have been very great relief to us at this important time concerning location, character of the Indians &c etc. But it is wisely ordered, & we submit. He appears to have been a favorite here & to have done much good. The Messrs. Lees left Vancouver on Sat. last for their station on the Wallamet (Willamette). Mr. Daniel Lee has been out of health & for the past year has been at Oahu.--returned by t(he) Nereides, benefited by his visit.

13th. This morn(ing) visited t(he) school to hear t(he) children sing. It consisted of about 50 scholars-- children who have French fathers & Indian mothers--& many orphans. All t(he) laborers here are t(he) Canadian French with Indian wives. Indeed some of t(he) gentlemen of t(he) Company have Indian wives & have adopted the custom of t(he) country--not to have their wives eat with them. French is t(he) prevailing language here. English is spoken only by a few. Just before dinner we went on board t(he) ship--t(he) first I ever saw. It is a man-of-war a goes to t(he) Northwest Coast soon. The Company has lost three ships on this coast. The Columbia returns to London this fall.

14th. Were invited to ride this afternoon--rode 15 miles to see t(he) farm. Vancouver is finely situated on t(he) Columbia, 130 miles from t(he) Ocean, just above t(he) mouth of t(he) Wallamut (Willamette), called on maps Multnomah. We visited the barn, stock &c. They estimate their wheat crop at 4,000 bushels this year; peas the same; oats & barley between 15 & 1700 bushels each. The potato & turnip fields are fine & large. Their cattle are numerous, estimated at 1,000 head in all their settlements. Also sheep & goats, but the sheep are of an inferior kind. We find hens, turkeys, pigeons, but no geese. You will ask what kinds of beds are used here. I can tell you what kind were made for us & I have since found it a

fashionable bed for this country. The bedstead is in the form of a bunk with rough bottoms, upon which were laid about a dozen Indian blankets. These with a pair of pillows covered with calico cases constitute our bed and covering. There are several feather beds in the place but they are made of the feathers of wild game, such as ducks, cranes, wild geese &c. I intend to make me one of these materials as soon as I can obtain them, not this winter, how ever. There is nothing here suitable for ticking. The best & only material is brown linen sheeting. The Indian ladies make theirs of deer skin. Could we obtain a pair of geese from any quarter I should think much of them.

16th. Every day we have something new to see. Went to the stores[?] and found them filled with the cargoes of the two ships. They are chiefly Indian goods & will be sent away to the several different parts of the company. Find here also every article for comfort & durability we need, but many articles for convenience & all fancy articles are not here. Visited the dairy also--found butter & cheese in abundance. Saw an improvement in the manner of raising cream. Their pans are of an oblong square quite large but shallow, made of wood lined with tin; in the center is a hole with a long plug. When the cream has all arisen to the surface, place the pan over a pail, remove the plug and the milk will all run off, leaving the cream in the pan.

I think these in a large dairy would be very convenient. They milk between fifty and sixty cows here. On visiting the mill did not find it in a high state of improvement. It goes by horse power, has a wire bolt. This seems a hard way of getting bread, but better so than no bread or ground by hand. The Com. have one (at) Colvil[?] that goes by water & two on the Wallam(ut). (Colville) is five days ride above W. W. where[?] we expect to obtain our supplies of flour and potatoes, & pork. They have 300 hogs there[?] (or here). Dr. McLoughlin has promised to loan us enough to make a beginning, & all the return he asks is that we supply other settlements in the same way. No person could have received a more hearty welcome or be treated with greater kindness than we have since our arrival.

17th. A subject is now before us about our spending the winter at Vancouver while our husbands go seek their location & build. Dr. McLoughlin, our host, is certain that it will be best for us to stay. The thought of it is not very pleasing to either of us. For several reasons I had rather go to W. W., where, if we fail of making our location or of building this fall, we could stay very comfortably & have enough to eat, ---but not as comfortable nor so great a variety as we have here, & besides, the difficulty of ascending the river in high water, not to say anything of a six months' separation---But all will be ordered for the best.

18th. Sab. Mr. Beaver held two services in Dr.'s house today. The form of worship is the same as the Episcopalians in the States. Enjoyed the privilege much. The most of the gentlemen of the Fort are Scotch Presbyterians--but very few Episcopalians. The great mass of laborers are Roman Catholics who have three services on the Sabbath, one of which is attended at this house, in which Dr. McLoughlin officiates in French.---translates a sermon or tract, & reads a chapter in the Bible and a prayer. The singing in Mr. Beaver's was done by children. Some of their tunes were taught them by Mr. Parker---others by Mr. Shepherd, of the Methodist Mission.

19th. The question is decided at last---that we stay here perhaps four or five weeks. There is so much luggage to be taken up now that the boat will be sufficiently loaded for safety without us. Have the cheering promise that they will come for us in a short time if prospered. One thing comforts us, they are as unwilling to leave us as we are to stay, & would not if it was possible for us to go now. From this we infer that they will make every effort possible to return for us soon. We are told that the rainy season will commence soon & continue through the winter & late in the spring, while at W. W. there is none. Vancouver is subject to the Ague & Fever. There are quite good reasons for preferring W. W. even if we have to live in a lodge. Have been making some necessary purchases for

our boys, Richard & John, which we are glad to do, partly as a reward for their faithful care of the cattle during the journey. We left them at W. W. They regretted our leaving them, & now to stay from them all winter, I cannot feel willing to (do). Their anxiety to study continues especially Richard's. We love them both & feel deeply interested in their welfare. Shall treat them as our own so long as they deserve it.

20th. Dr. McLoughlin gave my husband a pair of leather pantaloons today. All the gentlemen here wear them for economy. Riding horseback and carrying a gun is very destructive to cloth pantaloons. Our husbands have been making every preparation for leaving us today, but have found so much to do as not to get ready to leave much before night. Have concluded to start the boat a short distance and camp while they, with Mr. Pambrun & Mr. Gray remain in the fort to leave in the morning.

21st. Our friends left us this morning early. One thing I should have mentioned as decided before they left, was the propriety of making two stations. After consideration it was considered best for several reasons: The Cayuses, as well as the Nez Perces, are very anxious to have teachers among them. They are a numerous tribe and speak the same language as the Nez Perces. There are many other fields open ready for the harvest. O! that there were many other labourers here ready to occupy them immediately. Several

places have been recommended, which they will visit before they fix upon any place. You will recollect that we had Grand Round (Ronde) in view when we left home, as a location. Our reasons for not fixing upon that place are insurmountable. The pass in the Blue Mountains is so difficult & the distance so great, that it would be next to impossible to think of obtaining supplies sufficient for our support. We could not depend upon game for it is very scarce and uncertain. Mr. Parker recommended a place on the Koos Kooske River, six days ride above W. W. I hope to be able to give you our exact location before I send this.

22nd. Dr. McLoughlin has put his daughters in my care & wishes me to hear her recitations. Thus I shall have enough to do for diversions while I stay. I could employ all my time in writing and work for myself if it were not for his wishes. I sing with the children every evening, which is considered a favour.

23d. I have not given you a description of our eatables here. There is such a variety I know not where to begin. For breakfast we have coffee or cocoa, salt salmon & roast duck (wild) & potatoes. When we have eaten our supply of them our plates are changed and we make a finish on bread and butter. For dinner we have a greater variety. First we are always treated to a dish of soup, which is very good. Every kind of vegetables in use is taken and chopped fine and put into water with a little

rice & boiled to a soup. The tomatoes are a prominent part. Usually some fowl meat --duck or any kind, is cut fine and added to it. If it has been roasted once it is just as good (so the cook says) then spiced to the taste. After our soup dishes are removed, then comes a variety of meats to prove our taste. After selecting & tasting, change plates & try another if you choose, so at every new dish have a clean plate. Roast duck is an every day dish.--- roast pork, tripe, & sometimes trotters, fresh salmon, or sturgeon---yea? too numerous to mention. When these are set aside a rice pudding or an apple pie is next introduced. After this melons next make their appearance; sometimes grapes & after all cheese, bread or biscuit & butter is produced to complete the whole. But there is one article on the table I have not yet mentioned & of which I never partake; that is wine. The gentlemen frequently drink toasts to each other but never give us the opportunity of refusing, for they know we are members of the teetotal () society. We have many talks about drinking wine, but no one joins our society. They have a Temperance Soc. here & at the Wallamut, formed by Mr. Lee. Our tea is very plain, bread & butter, good tea, plenty of milk & sugar.

30th. We are invited to ride as often as once a week for exercise & generally ride all the afternoon. Today Mrs. McLoughlin rode with us. She keeps her old habit of riding gentleman fashion. This is the universal

custom of Indian women generally. They (saddles) have high backs & fronts. We have been recommended to use these saddles, as being a more easy way of riding, but never have seen the necessity of changing our fashion. I sing about an hour every evening with the children, at the request of Dr. McLoughlin (teaching them now tunes). Thus I am wholly occupied & can scarcely have as much time as I want for writing.

Oct. 18th. This afternoon the Montreal Express arrived, and a general time of rejoicing it is to everyone. News from distant friends, both sad and pleasing. Mr. S. has come with it & brought a letter from my husband with pleasing information. The Lord has been with them since they left and has prospered them beyond all expectations. They have selected each a location, & husband remains there to build, while Mr. S. came for us. He writes me that our location is on the Walla W. River, an eastern branch of the Columbia, about 25 miles east of the fort & about the same distance southeast of the mouth of Snake River. He is pleased with the situation. Thinks the soil very favorable & will be able to cultivate next year quite extensively. The spot selected can be enclosed with 30 rods of fence, and brushing ^{bordering?} up the rest along two streams, by which it is most surrounded, and by which it may be watered. It is thought to contain 300[?] acres. There is no want of good land for cultivation and hunting. This is

the country of the Cayouse, who speak the same language of the Nez Perces. Mr. has fixed upon a place 110 miles east of us, on the north side of the Snake River, near the mouth of CoosCoos River, a small branch. The land is very good but not very extensive, but sufficient for the establishment & most of the Indians. Enough may be found near on other streams for the remainder. Plenty of good timber, stone, clay, and water; more timber on this location than on ours. We have enough for present use--no pine--all cottonwood; shall be obliged to go to the mountains 15 miles for pine. The Nez Perces are exceedingly anxious for the location; make many promises to work and listen to instructions. They do not like to have us stop with the Cayouses---Say they do not have difficulty with the white men as the Cayouses do, & that we shall find it so. The Walla Walla River has many branches and much good land on all of them. The Fort is on Columbia River, just above Walla W. River. We shall be near neighbors to them. They intend to build both houses this fall and winter and be prepared for crops next spring; say they shall put in their crops next spring, & if they cannot fence, employ Indians to guard during the day, and yard the animals at night. When they left here (they). did not expect to make but one location this fall;--feel that they are greatly prospered in making both. We expect to leave here on the first of Nov; would be glad to go sooner if we could get

our things made--on account of the rain;---have had none yet, which is quite remarkable. Have the promise of having a room ready for me as soon as I can get there. Mrs. S. goes immediately to her location, without waiting for a house to be built.

Oct. 22nd. It has rained considerably---the first I have seen since the 22nd July. In all the journey have not suffered any inconvenience from rain, while last year in the early part of it there was rain almost constantly.

25(th). I thought I would tell what kind of a dish we had set before us this morning. It is called black pudding. It is not a favorite dish with us Americans. It goes from the table untouched. It is made of blood and the fat of hogs, well spiced and filled into a gut. The grapes are just ripe, and I am feasting on them finely. There is now a bunch on the table before me. I save all the seeds of those I eat, for planting, & of apples also. This is a rule at Vancouver. I have got collected before me an assortment of garden seeds, which I (shall) take up with me. Also I intend taking some young sprouts of apple, peach, grape & strawberry vines &c from the nursery here. Thus we have everything we could wish for supplied us here. We brought an assortment of seeds from Cincinnati over the mountains. I think every time I look into the glass, if mother could see me now she would not think my cheek bones very prominent. We have every comfort we can wish for here---

enough to eat and drink & are as well provided for as we should be in many boarding houses in the States.

Nov. 1st. I have seen a sight today, which makes me shudder. A poor Indian woman sailing in a boat just below here, with her husband, who was shot dead by the chief of the tribe. The ball that killed him went through her arm & just grazed her breast, but did not kill her. She came into the Fort today, a pitiful object. Mrs. S. has told us of a case which occurred just after they arrived at Walla W. from here. A woman sickened and died, leaving a little child. She was buried. Her husband obtained a woman to nurse the child for him. A few days after, in the absence of the child's father, the father of the child's mother came and took the child away from the woman & carried it to the grave of its mother, dug it open, placed the child in, and buried it alive with tis mother. When the father returned and heard what had become of the child, (he) was very much grieved and wished to have the man shot. But no measures were taken to redress the wrong. These things, with others, make me feel that I am on heathen ground.

Eve. My school of singers are assembling and invite my attendance. They have improved much in their singing and learned very many tunes from the short time I have been here. Doct. thinks it a great assistance to them in leaning the English language. All regret my leaving. Dr. says if I were not situated so far off he would send them all to me;

18 of them are orphans whom the Dr. has picked up and saved alive. Mrs. McLoughlin has a fine ear for music and is greatly delighted. She is one of the kindest women in the world;--speaks a little French but mostly her native tongue. She wishes to go and live with me--her daughter and Mrs. Douglas also. The Lord reward them for their love and kindness to us.

9 o'clock. The Dr. urges us to stay all winter. He is a very sympathetic man--is afraid we should suffer;--- presents many obstacles in the way of our going, which appear so to him but not to us. I have just learned that we cannot leave tomorrow. The new boat is not quite ready. No work done for us today; learned it is the Roman Catholic All Saints Day--a Holiday. You will see the seal of my host upon the enclosure of this journal. They are even nice in following the rules of etiquette here, in some particulars. It is considered impolite to send a letter with a wrapper[?], for the reason that it is wet with upittle--- very impolite to send spittle to a friend. You will laugh at this, I know, but so it is. We are both of us without a Seal, and if I use wax, I shall have to use my thimble. How does Frances do? And J. G? I want to hear from them, also Mary Ann & S. P. But when shall I? You will write me, everyone, I hope. I want to hear everyone speak--- H. & L. Clarissa & J. & H. & Edward, all write. Husband is so filled with business that he writes but little. He

often speaks of writing you, but says I must write for him until he is less hurried in [?]his business. He is far away now, poor soul--just three hundred miles. If I had wings I would fly.

I intended to have written this so plain(ly) that father and mother could read it without difficulty. Perhaps I have failed in so doing--so Adieu.

NARCISSA WHITMAN